



ACE EXPO PRESENTS

# 7th ACE Drug Discovery Summit

Courtyard by Marriott San Diego  
Mission Valley/Hotel Circle  
6th & 7th MAY 2026

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## DAY 01 - 06<sup>th</sup> MAY

08:00 - 08:45 Registrations and Itinerary Collection

08:45 - 09:00 Chairman's Welcome Remarks



Raffaella Rossi  
Principal Consultant | FTM-  
AD Consulting

**CHAIRPERSON Day-01**

### 09:00 - 09:30 Presentation no.1:

**From Single Targets to Polypharmacology: The Future of Nature-Derived Cancer Therapeutics**



Igor Nasonkin  
CEO | Phythera  
Therapeutics Inc.

### 09:30 - 10:00 Presentation no.2:

**Discovery and Development of Tumor specific Glycans as Targets for Anticancer Therapy**



Philip M Arlen  
CEO  
Precision Biologics

### 10:00 - 10:30 Presentation no.3:

**Advances in Regulatory Biology of Nociceptive Processing**

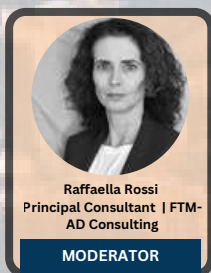


Tony Yaksh  
Professor |  
UC San Diego

## 10:30-11:00 Panel Discussion:

### Future Perspectives for AI in the Drug Discovery and Development Value Chain

- Finding new drug targets and designing molecules
- AI-designed drugs in trials, showing real-world potential
- Safety prediction, dose selection, and patient stratification



## (11:00-12:00) Business Meetings

11:00-11:30-----Business Meeting 1

11:30-12:00-----Business Meeting 2

## 12:00 - 12:30 Presentation no.4:

**Engineering Cell State Transitions with AI + Lab in the loop: An (almost) fully autonomous drug discovery approach for oncology**



**12:30-13:00 Presentation no.5:**

**Zero-Click QSAR and Deep-Learning Models  
Embedded in Chemically-Aware Workflows**



Janice Darlington  
Voice of CDD |  
Collaborative Drug  
Discovery - CDD Vault

**13:00 - 14:00-----Networking Lunch & Exhibition**

**14:00 - 14:30 Presentation no.6:**

**Breaking the Throughput Barrier: Ultra-Large  
Virtual Screening as a Precision Amplifier for AI-  
Driven Drug Discovery**



Tyler Umansky  
Head of Platform and  
Machine Learning  
Model Medicines

**14:30-14:50 Presentation no.7:**

**Evolution of Tech Transfers and Process  
Validation Expectations and Best  
Practices**



Humberto Vega-Mercado  
President and CEO | HMV  
Food and Pharma  
Consulting, LLC

**14:50-15:10 Presentation no.8:**

**Building the Tool Universe for Agentic Drug  
Discovery in Dynamic Proteins**



Amy He  
Research Scientist |  
Topos Bio

**15:10 - 15:30 Presentation no.9**

**Drug Discovery and AlphaFold: Are We Missing the Real Target?**



**Michael Liebman**  
Managing Director  
IPQ Analytics/WOVEN

**(15:30-16:30) Business Meetings**

15:30 - 16:00-----Business Meeting 4

16:00 - 16:30-----Business Meeting 5

**16:30 - 16:50 Presentation no.10**

**Translational Synergies in Causal Inference and Reinforcement learning**



**MaryLena Bleile**  
Statistician |  
Independent

**16:50 - 17:10 Presentation no.11:**

**Boosting Immune Memory to Achieve Durable Cures in Solid Tumor Immunotherapy**



**Anindya Bagchi Co-  
Founder |**  
Styx Biotechnologies Inc

**17:10 - 17:30 Presentation no.12:**

**TBA**



**Noah Davidsohn Co-  
Founder & Chief  
Scientific Officer |**  
Rejuvenate Bio

17:30 - 17:50 Presentation no.13:

Proteomics informed discoveries of the host-microbe interaction



David Gonzalez  
Professor  
UC San Diego

17:50 - 18:10 Presentation no.14:

**Nanomedicine in Drug Discovery: Breakthrough or Bioethical Concern**

- Nanoparticles: Pharmacological and toxicological significance
- Current strategies in the design of nanoparticles for therapeutic applications

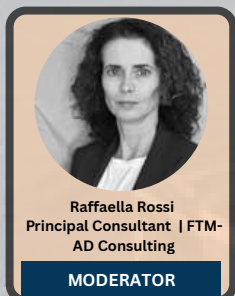


Kinkini Roy  
Principal, Director of  
Research | Stealth  
Mode BioTech

18:10 - 18:40 Panel Discussion:

**Next-Gen Immunotherapy Combinations: Shaping the Future of Cancer Treatment Today**

- Explore strategies involving checkpoint inhibitors, vaccines, cell therapies
- Discuss biomarkers and patient selection criteria
- Review regulatory considerations and trial design complexities



Raffaella Rossi  
Principal Consultant | FTM-  
AD Consulting

MODERATOR



Philip M Arlen  
CEO  
Precision Biologics



Kinkini Roy  
Principal, Director of  
Research | Stealth  
Mode BioTech



Anindya Bagchi Co-  
Founder |  
Styx Biotechnologies Inc

18:40 Chairman Closing Remarks & End of Day

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## DAY 02 - 07th MAY

08:00 - 08:45 Registrations and Itinerary Collection

08:45 - 09:00 Chairman's Welcome Remarks



Rameshwar Kadam  
Senior Scientist II | Johnson  
and Johnson Innovative  
Medicine

CHAIRPERSON Day-02

### 09:00 - 09:30 Presentation no.16:

Beyond Fragment-Based Drug Design: Combining DEL and FBDD for more efficient hit finding



Hajnalka Hartl  
Head of Chemistry  
Orogen Therapeutics

### 09:30 - 10:00 Presentation no.17:

AI-Driven Drug Design and Lead Optimization for Small Molecule

- Increasing use of computational tools, models, algorithms, and data analytics for drug development
- Highlight the pros and cons of AI/ML-driven decision-making using relevant case studies from small molecule



Xin Zhang  
Sr. Director,  
Computational Chemistry  
| Cellarity

10:00 - 10:30 Presentation no.18:

## The Repurposing Paradox: High Scientific Appeal, Limited Commercial Viability



Vivek Gupta  
Associate Professor |  
St. John's University

10:30-11:00 Panel Discussion:

## How Drug Discovery Applications Drive AI Innovations and Vice Versa

- Explore how real-world challenges in drug discovery accelerate development of novel AI algorithms & tools
- AI-driven platforms led to breakthroughs in preclinical or early-phase development
- Future trends in AI drug discovery, including automation, and regulatory integration



Michael Liebman  
Managing Director  
IPQ Analytics/WOVEN



Xin Zhang  
Sr. Director,  
Computational Chemistry  
| Cellarity



Milad  
Rouhimoghadam  
Senior Scientist |  
AbbVie



Rick Ewing  
VP, Head of Chemistry |  
Rapafusyn



Ruben Abagyan  
Professor  
| University of California,  
San Diego



Rose Yu  
Associate Professor |  
UC San Diego

(11:00-12:00) Business Meetings

11:00-11:30-----Business Meeting 1

11:30-12:00-----Business Meeting 2

**12:00 - 12:30 Presentation no.19:**

**RapaGlues – A Bridge between Macrocyclic Peptides and Molecular Glues for Unlocking Hard to Drug Targets**



**Rick Ewing**  
VP, Head of Chemistry |  
Rapafusyn

**12:30-13:00 Presentation no.20:**

**Accelerating De Novo Drug Design with Generative AI**



**Rose Yu**  
Associate Professor |  
UC San Diego

**13:00 - 14:00-----Networking Lunch & Exhibition**

**14:00-14:30 Presentation no.21:**

**The Discovery and Development of oral cyclic peptide therapies**



**Chester Yuan**  
CSO | Sungeneing  
Biosciences

**14:30 – 15:00 Presentation no.22:**

**Genetically encoded biosensors enable real-time quantification of post-translational modifications in living systems**



**Milad  
Rouhimoghadam  
Senior Scientist |  
AbbVie**

**15:00-15:30 Presentation no.23:**

**Mirror-Image De Novo Design of D-Peptide Ligands**



**Rameshwar Kadam  
Senior Scientist II | Johnson  
and Johnson Innovative  
Medicine**

**(15:30-16:30) Business Meetings**

15:30 - 16:00-----Business Meeting 4

16:00 - 16:30-----Business Meeting 5

**16:30-17:00 Presentation no.24:**

**Human-Derived Nociceptive Signaling Platforms for Pain Therapy: An Overview and Evaluation**



**Sara Dochnal  
Postdoctoral Fellow |  
UC San Diego**

**17:00-17:20 Presentation no.25:**

**Drugs ex Machina: an ultra-fast pipeline to discover drug candidates for challenging disease/target/property objectives**



**Ruben Abagyan  
Professor  
| University of California,  
San Diego**

17:20 - 17:40 Presentation no.26:

## Current state of play for AI-assisted oncology discovery research



Julia Coronella  
Former Vice President  
of Immuno-oncology |  
Poseida Therapeutics,  
Inc.

17:40 - 18:00 Presentation no.27:

## Treatment Selection and de-escalation choices using circulating tumor cells and AI



Kevin Knopf  
Medical Oncologist  
1Cell.AI

18:00 - 18:30 Panel Discussion:

## From Target to Therapy: Navigating the Drug Discovery Pipeline

- How emerging tech & smarter development strategies reshape the drug discovery landscape
- Explore where the field is headed
- How collaboration across disciplines can turn scientific breakthroughs into patient impact



Humberto Vega-Mercado  
President and CEO | HMV  
Food and Pharma  
Consulting, LLC



Tyler Umansky  
Head of Platform and Machine  
Learning  
Model Medicines



Adwitiya Kar  
Former Senior Scientist  
| Immunitas Therapeutics



Noah Davidsohn Co-  
Founder & Chief  
Scientific Officer |  
Rejuvenate Bio



Shicheng Guo  
Senior Director | Arrowhead  
Pharmaceuticals

18:30 Chairman Closing Remarks & End of Day